

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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PEGGY M. HATCH SECRETARY

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## **DEQ** to hold Underground Storage Tank Class in Crowley

**BATON ROUGE** - On October 13, the Department of Environmental Quality will hold an underground storage tank training class at the Louisiana Technical College Acadian Campus in Crowley. The campus is located at 1933 W. Hutchinson Drive, and the class will be held from 8 a.m. until noon.

The class is designed so that owners or operators of underground storage tanks, such as gas stations, can learn about leak detection, leak prevention, maintenance and environmental regulations concerning the tanks. The class is free and open to the public. Tank owners who have received an expedited penalty from DEQ are required to attend at least one of the training classes that are being held throughout the state.

DEQ began the expedited penalty program in 2004 to address minor violations. If someone has a minor violation and received an expedited penalty, they may have to pay a fine and attend a training class.

"The expedited penalty program and the training classes involved are beneficial to the state and the storage tank owners," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "Many times, someone who owns a gas station doesn't know the regulations regarding reporting or doesn't have the latest information on how to detect leaks. By attending the class, these owners or operators become more aware of the environmental issues associated with their business and can take the necessary steps to be more protective of human health and the environment."

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